

IN TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN P. MURTHA OF PENNSYLVANIA

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and loyal public servant, the Honorable John Murtha. He was a strong voice for the constituents in the 12th District of Pennsylvania and honorably served as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

I, like so many of my colleagues, am blessed to have known Mr. Murtha on a professional and personal level. It is no surprise that Mr. Murtha will be remembered as such an effective legislator. Given his proud service in the Marine Corps and passionate devotion for the greater good of our nation, Mr. Murtha consistently served as a moral compass for the U.S. Congress.

About a year and a half after the Iraq War started, many wounded soldiers were transferred to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mr. Murtha visited these soldiers and witnessed the horrific wounds they were suffering with, such as losing a limb or losing complete eyesight. Mr. Murtha invited the veterans staying at Walter Reed, their families and members of Congress to a restaurant meal where he wanted the members to hear the stories of these courageous veterans. He wanted the veterans to express how they became wounded and what they believed Congress could do to help make sure our American soldiers were safe. Through legislation and appropriations funding, the stories from our veterans helped Congress push the military to improve their equipment. Humvee's and protective vests were improved to keep our soldiers safe from roadside bombs and other forms of hostility.

In all his years as an appropriator and legislator, he has always advocated for the safety of our military and has fought to improve the quality of life for American soldiers and their families. It was typical of Mr. Murtha to be modest about all of the care he showed the soldiers and veterans in times of war. After learning of the unacceptable conditions veterans were subjected to at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Mr. Murtha immediately reached out to Members of Congress. He knew it was our country's responsibility to bring justice to our nation's wounded soldiers by ensuring that they received the proper medical care they deserved.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, loved ones and friends. Mr. Murtha will be remembered as a man of honor, generosity and strength. His unfaltering dedication and care is what made him such an extraordinary person. It is with great sadness that I say goodbye to a great man and friend. I will miss him dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for his longtime service and leadership as a U.S. Representative.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and offer my sincerest thanks to the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue team, specifically the Urban Search and Rescue branch, for their heroic efforts in aiding the relief work in Haiti.

Within hours of learning that a magnitude 7.0 earthquake had struck, Division Chief Dave Downey had organized a task force of 80 strong to respond. With minimal preliminary information, Chief Downey's task force began to mobilize immediately after the earthquake struck on January 12. Having responded to domestic disasters in the past including Hurricane Opal, the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina, Chief Downey's Florida Task Force 1 was well equipped to help the devastated town of Port-au-Prince.

Overcoming logistical difficulties such as the transportation of nearly 100 search and rescue personnel as well as their 62,000-pound equipment, the efforts of Florida Task Force 1 resulted in the largest number of survivors ever rescued in history. Rescuing their first victim almost 24 hours before their equipment had even arrived, we should all be proud of Chief Downey's team and the devotion they showed in executing a successful rescue mission.

In Chief Downey's own words, "The breadth of this disaster was overwhelming." With a full view of the destruction, Florida Task Force 1 was forced to overcome countless challenges. With no Internet access or pre-established GPS formats, the task force had no other option but to plan their mission using old tourist maps for the first few—and most chaotic—days. Risking their own lives to save others, the courage and dedication of Florida Task Force 1 is truly an example to us all. Confronted with their greatest enemy—time—I commend the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue team for their quick and selfless response to the crisis in Haiti.

At this time, I would like to submit the names of each individual that made up the courageous Florida Task Force 1:

Alvarado, Patricio; Alvarez, Andres; Baker, Robert; Bell, Raymond; Borz, Ronald; Bramblett, Colette; Bustamante, Miguel; Caballero, Derrick; Canfield, Michael; Capote, Ernesto; Catapano, Kristian; Chung, Richard; Cooper, Rhaldal; Cuminale, Michael; Dombrowski, Lawrence; Downey, David; Driscoll, Stephen; Fernandez, Jorge; Fernandez, Louie; Ferraro, John.

Fregeolle, Gary; Garcia, Frank; Garcia-Menocal, Jose; Gelabert, Brian; Gelabert, Manuel; Gimenez, Carlos; Gonzalez, Mario; Gonzalez, Orlando; Gonzalez, Ralph; Hale, Marc; Hall, Richard; Herrera, Ernesto; Hook, Andrew; Hooten, Chad; Jacobs, Edan; Jenkins, Millard; Lefur, Rachelle; Licea, William; Machado, Andres; Major, Malcolm.

Mardice, Yves; Marks, Michael; Matos, Janice; Mclellan, Gregory; Moise, Rudolph; Mullin, Scott; Neetz, Jacqueline; Oldfield, Jeffrey; Oldfield, Monica; Parker, Pamela; Paternoster, Brandy; Paul-Noel, Karls; Pellon, Alejandro; Perez, Alberto; Perla, Marcelo; Perry, Alan; Post, Brandon; Pozo, Rafael; Ramos, Sergio; Richard, Stacy.

Rodriguez, Jairo; Rodriguez, Pedro; Rouse, Jeffrey; Santana, Luis; Seltz, Jack; Smithies, John; Steele, Michelle; Strickland, Gregory; Strickland, Jeffrey; Strull, Michael; Sullivan, Robert; Tonanez, Alvaro; Trim, Anthony; Vaughan, Ray; Wasilkowski, Justin; Webb, Brandon; Whu, Danny; Williams, Kenneth; Wood, Hilda; Yetter, Michael.

As a result of these individuals' inspiring work in Haiti, countless lives have been saved and many more have been assisted. Their selfless mission and sense of commitment is a testament to our Nation's highest principles. As Americans, we cannot thank them enough for the work they have done both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on February 26, 2010, on rollcall No. 71 (Schauer of Michigan amendment), I inadvertently voted "no" when I had intended to vote "aye."

RECOGNIZING CHRISTI MINISTER

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Christi Minister of Eden Prairie. She received the national Catholic Charities USA "Keep the Dream Alive" award on Martin Luther King Day. Catholic Charities, which Christi had been a part of for more than 25 years, has worked to acknowledge those who give their time and energy to reducing poverty, supporting families and empowering communities. This award, created this year, honors those who have made community service an integral part of their lives. Christi believes focusing on education for all gives everyone an opportunity to experience the American dream. I would like to thank Christi Minister for her commitment to helping others, and for "keeping the dream alive."

HONORING PAUL MASIH DAS,
INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH
FINALIST

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Paul Masih Das and congratulate him as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search 2010. The Intel Science Talent Search is America's most prestigious science competition for high school seniors. Paul is one of only 40 finalists nationwide.

Paul's project, "A Novel Chemical Synthesis for >1 MUM 2 Graphene Sheets," synthesized single-layer graphene (a sheet of carbon that's as thick as a single atom) using a relatively